Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

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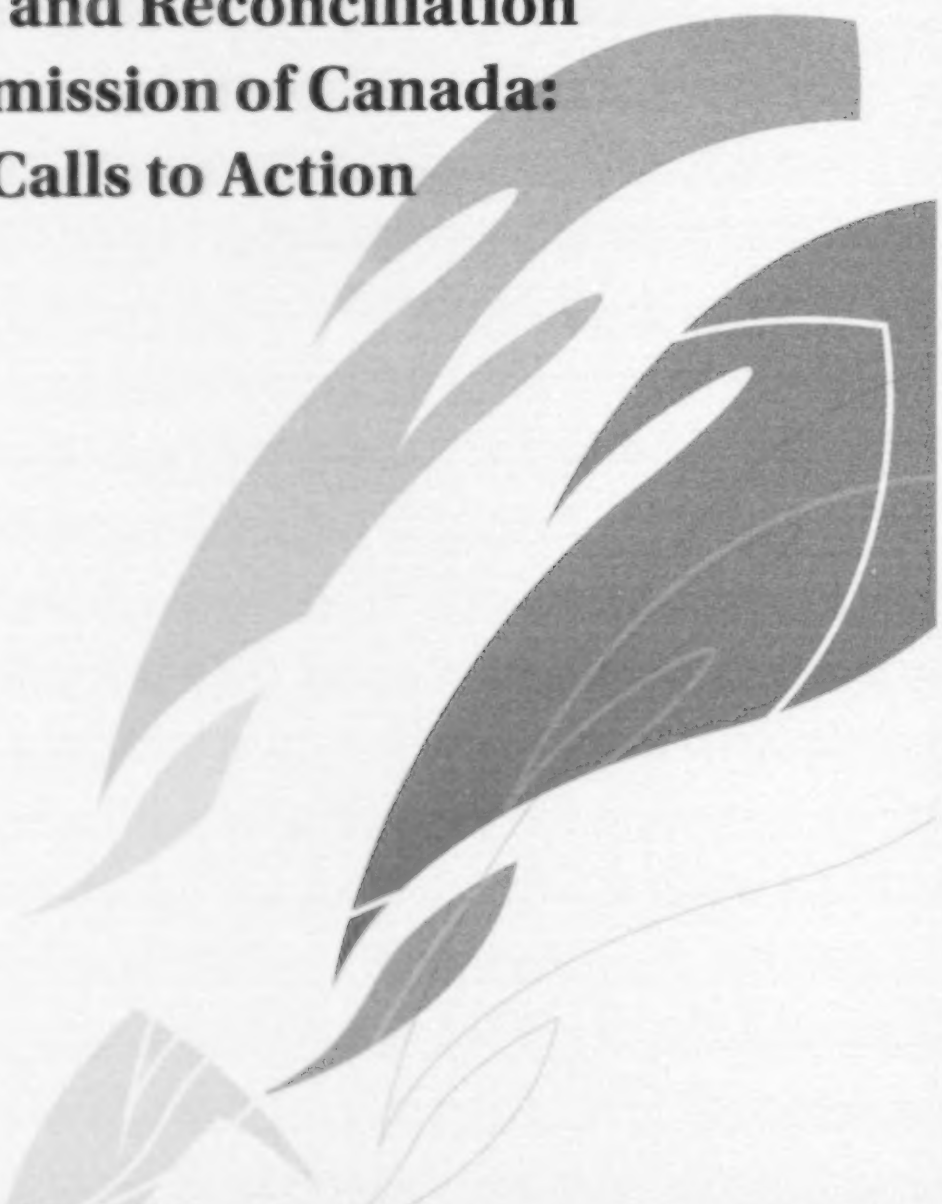

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2015

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2012
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Calls to Action

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

Legacy

Child welfare

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
    i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
    ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
    iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
    iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
    v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.
2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.
3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.
4. We call upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that:
    i. Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-welfare agencies.
    ii. Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.
    iii. Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placements of Aboriginal children into temporary and permanent care be culturally appropriate.
5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

Education

6. We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate

educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8. We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

9. We call upon the federal government to prepare and publish annual reports comparing funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves, as well as educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

    i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.

    ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates.

    iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.

    iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.

    v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems.

    vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

    vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.

11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.

12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

Language and Culture

13. We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.

14. We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

    i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.

    ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.

    iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.

    iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.

    v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

15. We call upon the federal government to appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner. The commissioner should help promote Aboriginal languages and report on the adequacy of federal funding of Aboriginal-languages initiatives.

16. We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.

17. We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.

Health

18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

19. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes

between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

20. In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.

21. We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

22. We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

23. We call upon all levels of government to:

    i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.

    ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.

    iii. Provide cultural competency training for all health-care professionals.

24. We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Justice

25. We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest as a potential or real party in civil litigation.

26. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.

27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

28. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

29. We call upon the parties and, in particular, the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have outstanding legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed set of facts.

30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

32. We call upon the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.

33. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD prevention programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.

34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:

    i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.

    ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.

    iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.

    iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.

35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.

36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.

37. We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.

38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:

    i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

    ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.

Reconciliation

Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.

44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

i. Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.

ii. Adopt and implement the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.

iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.

iv. Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure that Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.

60. We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, and that would include, but not be limited to:

i. Reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to reconciliation.

ii. Repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and the reformation of laws, government structures, and policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts.

iii. Full adoption and implementation of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.

iv. Support for the renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.

v. Enabling those excluded from the Settlement Agreement to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.

vi. Enabling additional parties to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.

vii. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

Reconciliation Agreements, Church Covenants, and the Church Covenant of Reconciliation

61. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

i. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ii. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and action to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

62. We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.

Equity for Aboriginal People in the Legal System

63. In keeping with the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, to fund the establishment of Indigenous law institutes for the development, use, and

[illegible] Aboriginal peoples and Canada.

14. We call upon the Government of Canada, as an obligation of fiduciary responsibility, to develop a policy of transparency by publishing legal opinions it develops and upon which it acts or intends to act, in regard to the scope and nature of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

15. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the courts to adopt the following legal principles:

    i. Aboriginal title claims are not required to prove the Aboriginal claimant has established exclusive use and occupancy over the land.

    ii. Once Aboriginal title has been established, the burden of proving any limitations on any rights arising from the existence of that title shifts to the party asserting such a limitation.

[illegible] Canada and Reconciliation

16. We call upon the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation. The legislation would establish the council as an independent, national, oversight body with membership evenly appointed by the Government of Canada and National Aboriginal organizations, and consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. Its mandate would include, but not be limited to, the following:

    i. Monitor, evaluate, and report annually to Parliament and the people of Canada on the Government of Canada's post-apology progress on reconciliation to ensure that government accountability for reconciling the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown is maintained in the coming years.

    ii. Monitor, evaluate, and report to Parliament and the people of Canada on reconciliation progress across all levels and sectors of Canadian society, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

    iii. Develop and implement a 10-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation, which includes research and policy development, public education programs, and resources.

    iv. Promote public dialogue, public events, partnerships, and produce materials to foster reconciliation.

17. We call upon the Government of Canada to provide multi-year funding for the National Council for Reconciliation to ensure that it has the financial, human, and technical resources required to conduct its work, including the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust to advance the vision of reconciliation.

18. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any other information as may be required by the National Council for Reconciliation to assist it in carrying out its progress reporting in accordance with the following:

    i. The number of Aboriginal children – including children in care, children who are placed for adoption, and children adopted by non-Aboriginal families – who remain separated from their families, the reasons for apprehension, and the reasons for any disparity between children in care and children adopted.

    ii. A comparison detailing for the education of First Nations children on each reservation.

    iii. The educational and economic opportunities of Aboriginal peoples and a comparison of both with non-Aboriginal people.

    iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of key public indicators such as infant mortality, suicide, life expectancy, child and youth obesity, educational attainment, unemployment, income, crime, child welfare, overcrowding, access to safe housing, and clean drinking water.

    v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.

    vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data relating to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.

    vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.

19. We call upon the justice minister of each province and territory that has not yet developed an alternative, restorative approach to Aboriginal justice to develop one in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and their police services. This approach should reduce the rate of incarceration of Aboriginal offenders and must commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade.

20. We call upon the federal government to establish a national public inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls. This inquiry should address the concerns of the families of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls, and should result in a culturally relevant plan of action to ensure the safety of Aboriginal women and girls.

21. We call upon all parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to recognize that the Aboriginal peoples who were taken to residential schools were not only children during the time they were students at residential schools. We call upon all parties to the Settlement Agreement to recognize that the lifelong impacts of residential schools upon these individuals, their families, and communities constitute an ongoing harm that requires healing.

22. We call upon all parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to adopt the following principles regarding the healing of Aboriginal peoples affected by residential schools:

    i. Healing programs should be holistic, involving the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the individual, the family, and the community, and must respect the diversity of Aboriginal cultures, traditions, and languages.

    ii. Healing programs must be regionally relevant and culturally appropriate, and must be developed and delivered in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and healing centres.

    iii. Sufficient and stable funding must be provided to ensure the availability of healing programs in all communities affected by residential schools.

    iv. Healing programs must be accessible to anyone who has been affected by residential schools, regardless of where they live.

    v. Funding must be provided for programs that address the intergenerational impacts of residential schools, including programs that focus on the healing of children who are still suffering from the effects of residential schools.

    vi. Healing must be recognized as a long-term process and adequate funding must be provided for healing programs that extend beyond the current Settlement Agreement.

23. We call upon all governments to provide multi-year funding for community-based healing initiatives that address the inter-generational consequences of residential schools, including but not limited to programs that reunite families, preserve and promote Aboriginal languages, and support culturally relevant parenting programs.

24. We call upon the Government of Canada to provide adequate funding to enable the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to commission and collect testimonials from former residential school students, their families, communities, and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. This information should be archived in a manner that ensures its preservation and that allows public access when appropriate, and should be made available in both printed and electronic versions.

25. We call upon the Government of Canada to establish, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that all schools participate in activities to educate students about the residential school experience. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation should be observed in a manner that does not take place on a statutory holiday.

26. We call upon the Government of Canada to establish, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, a national public awareness program to promote public dialogue and education about former residential schools, the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the roles played by various churches, governments, and individuals, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society.

27. We call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that the Canadian Museum for Human Rights fulfills its mandate to establish as one of its core exhibits a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of residential schools.

28. We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, an Aboriginal Arts Program.

29. We call upon provincial and territorial governments responsible for education to provide all students in Canada with an age-appropriate curriculum on the residential school system, Treaties, Aboriginal peoples' contributions to Canada, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary relationships with the Crown.

30. We call upon the Government of Canada to ensure that post-secondary institutions educate students in the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

31. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take courses in Aboriginal peoples and the law, including the history of Aboriginal law, Aboriginal rights, Treaty rights, and Indigenous legal traditions, and to integrate Indigenous legal traditions in all courses, as appropriate.

32. We call upon the Government of Canada to appoint Aboriginal justices to the Supreme Court of Canada when there are vacancies.

33. We call upon all governments to provide appropriate resources to enable the Canadian Bar Association to educate its members regarding the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

34. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial governments, territorial governments, and law societies to develop, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, mandatory education programs for all lawyers and judges dealing with Aboriginal clients and communities. The programs should provide information on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including residential schools, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

35. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial governments, territorial governments, and law societies to provide funding for the establishment of scholarships, bursaries, and other measures that assist Aboriginal students in entering and graduating from law programs.

36. We call upon the Government of Canada, provincial governments, territorial governments, and law societies to provide funding for the establishment of Aboriginal law programs in Canadian law schools.

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    ii. Monitor, evaluate, and report to Parliament and the people of Canada on reconciliation progress across all levels and sectors of Canadian society, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

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39. We call upon all governments to provide annual reports or any other information as may be required by the National Council for Reconciliation to assist it in carrying out its progress reporting in accordance with the following:

    i. The number of Aboriginal children – including children in care, children who are placed for adoption, and children adopted by non-Aboriginal families – who remain separated from their families, the reasons for apprehension, and the reasons for any disparity between children in care and children adopted.

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    iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of key public indicators such as infant mortality, suicide, life expectancy, child and youth obesity, educational attainment, unemployment, income, crime, child welfare, overcrowding, access to safe housing, and clean drinking water. (Life expectancy, body mass index and child health issues, mental disorders, illness and injury incidence, and life availability of appropriate health services.)

    v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.

    vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data relating to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.

    vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.

40. We call upon the justice ministers of each province and territory that has not yet developed an alternative, restorative approach to Aboriginal justice to develop one in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and their police services. This approach should reduce the rate of incarceration of Aboriginal offenders and must commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade.

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43. We call upon all parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to adopt the following principles regarding the healing of Aboriginal peoples affected by residential schools:

    i. Healing programs should be holistic, involving the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the individual, the family, and the community, and must respect the diversity of Aboriginal cultures, traditions, and languages.

    ii. Healing programs must be regionally relevant and culturally appropriate, and must be developed and delivered in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and healing centres.

    iii. Sufficient and stable funding must be provided to ensure the availability of healing programs in all communities affected by residential schools.

    iv. Healing programs must be accessible to anyone who has been affected by residential schools, regardless of where they live.

    v. Funding must be provided for programs that address the intergenerational impacts of residential schools, including programs that focus on the healing of children who are still suffering from the effects of residential schools.

    vi. Healing must be recognized as a long-term process and adequate funding must be provided for healing programs that extend beyond the current Settlement Agreement.

44. We call upon all governments to provide multi-year funding for community-based healing initiatives that address the inter-generational consequences of residential schools, including but not limited to programs that reunite families, preserve and promote Aboriginal languages, and support culturally relevant parenting programs.

45. We call upon the Government of Canada to provide adequate funding to enable the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to commission and collect testimonials from former residential school students, their families, communities, and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. This information should be archived in a manner that ensures its preservation and that allows public access when appropriate, and should be made available in both printed and electronic versions.

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7.1 [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

including the history and legacy of residential schools and the reconciliation process.

65. We call upon the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, as an initial partner, to establish a national news service, in collaboration with other Aboriginal broadcasters, northern broadcasters, and mainstream broadcasters, which would broadcast news stories of importance to Aboriginal peoples throughout Canada at no cost.

66. We call upon the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, as an independent non-profit broadcaster with programming by, for, and about Aboriginal peoples, to support reconciliation, including but not limited to:

   i. Continuing to provide leadership in programming and organizational culture that reflects the diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples.

   ii. Continuing to develop media initiatives that inform and educate the Canadian public, and connect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

67. We call upon Canadian journalism programs and media schools to require education for all students on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations.

Sports and Reconciliation

68. We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

69. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.

70. We call upon the federal government to amend the *Physical Activity and Sport Act* to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

71. We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

   i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

   ii. Access to athlete development programs for Aboriginal athletes.

   iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.

   iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

72. We call upon the officials and host committees of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.

Business and Reconciliation

73. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:

   i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.

   ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.

   iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Newcomers to Canada

74. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including

information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

58. We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following:

> I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

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